

Received 3/9/2000

Paul Dabbs
Dept. of Water Resources
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Dear Mr. Dabbs

I would like to respond to the opportunity for public input on the 2003 California water plan update by DWR. The 1998 plan includes a high number of water control projects which violate existing law, have been rejected by Congress, have been judged not cost effective by regulatory agencies, conflict with existing environmental protection and ecosystem restoration goals, and are environmentally destructive. Such projects include the Auburn dam on the American River, the Devils Nose and Middle Bar dams on the Mokelumne River, Shasta dam raise on the Sacramento River, the Sacramento Valley offstream storage projects, the Tehama and Dutch Gulch dams on Cottonwood Creek, and the Nashville dam on the Cosumnes River.

I recommend that these unsatisfactory projects be eliminated from the 2003 plan by the DWR. In addition, I encourage the DWR to make the following steps to deploy a balanced and effective water plan for 2003:

- Analyze and adopt the water efficiency, conservation, and reclamation measures proposed by the Environmental Water Caucus and provide more emphasis on alternative ways to extend the state's existing water supplies which do not depend on dams.
- Form an independent panel of experts should develop new methodologies to estimate current water usage and future water demand to ensure that the 2003 plan does not over-inflate these figures.
- Generate realistic estimates for current water usage and future water demand, and use methodologies that ensure that future demand estimates are not over-inflated.
- Propose effective statewide regulation of groundwater to prevent groundwater depletion and adverse environmental and economic impacts.
- All water development and management proposals must be cost effective and be paid for by those who directly benefit. State taxpayers should not foot the bill to meet local water supply needs or correct problems caused by local mis-management.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



David G. Emery
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